

# THE MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN

*December 1950*

*Published by the*

MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 16

NUMBER 4

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# THE MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER  
1950.

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VOLUME 16  
NUMBER 4

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# PRESIDENT'S PAGE



As usual, this December issue carries the Michigan Library Association Who's Who for 1951. Some of the Committees are still incomplete. We are always anxious to hear about members who are able and willing to serve the Association in its many activities. The aim in appointments is to represent the membership as widely as possible, by including some newer members and some more experienced and by considering geographic areas in the state. As further appointments are made they will be announced in the *Michigan Librarian*.

The annual meeting of the Council of the Association will have taken place when this issue appears. The Council includes the members of the Executive Board, the Committee Chairmen, Librarian and Trustee Chairmen from the M.L.A. Districts, and Section Chairmen. The meeting is a planning session to set up programs for 1951. Themes, dates, and places for the spring district meetings are the center of discussion of the District Chairmen in their meeting with Vice-President Robert Orr.

At the Executive Board meeting on October 24, it was recommended that the Member-at-Large act as liaison officer for Sections. Accordingly, at the council meeting the Section Chairmen were scheduled to meet with Dorothy Hansen, to discuss special aspects of the work of their groups.

\$699,421 is being requested for State Aid to Public Libraries for 1951-52. The new request is based on the formula used for last year's request. This has been adjusted to the added inflation now occurring and to the actual (instead of estimated) increase in population, shown by the 1950 census. We think this has been kept at the lowest possible figure under present conditions.

With grants paid at 6c per capita under the former law, we estimate payment at 10½c could adjust them to the inflated dollar.

1. Appropriation for 1950-51	\$362,085
2. Adjusted to October 1950 value of the dollar grants @ 10½c	224,039
3. Adjusted to additional population of 1,078,066 @ 10½c	113,297
Total	\$699,421

If you have any opportunities to talk with the legislators in the near future, bring these figures to their attention in urging their support of library needs throughout the state.

Your President was invited to be a delegate to the White House Conference in Washington from December 3-7. The program is a full one, but very stimulating and valuable in pointing the way to further progress in fields of service to children and youth.

The next Michigan Library Association Conference will be held at the Statler Hotel in Detroit on November 1-2-3, 1951. Committees will be announced shortly. Save the dates and plan to be in Detroit for the Conference!

A Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with library progress to all of you!

Marian Young,  
President

Please notify the Executive Secretary of M.L.A. in case of the following: 1—Change of address. 2—Failure to receive THE MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN. Address Mrs. Margaret Wylie, 324 Southlawn, East Lansing.

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## LIBRARIANS CAN TAKE IT

by Karl F. Zeisler\*

As a library fan and amateur critic, constructive, I hope, of librarianship, I wish more librarians had the time and inclination to be writers. I think novels, short stories, true life adventures and thoughtful articles about libraries by librarians would go a long way toward breaking down public indifference to public libraries.

Perhaps, however, librarians have taken their pens or Remingtons in hand only to find, as I did, that this indifference extends to magazine editors. After several years of research and many contacts with librarians I thought I had concocted an article about libraries that would strike fire. On submitting it to one of the few intellectual magazines I received this letter from one of the editors:

"This doesn't quite hit the right target . . . You can only get people interested in libraries, as you say, by main force."

By persistence, I did get the article published. It was the response I got from librarians that convinces me more librarians should be writers—they can tell their own story so much better than any layman. And I can assure librarian-writers that the greatest reward from expression-in-print is the response. From a reprint of speeches to librarians in the *Michigan Librarian* and *Wilson Library Bulletin* and to articles about libraries in *Survey* and the *Library Journal* my response has been terrific.†

To prove that librarians are on their toes and can take criticism, and to prove that they could be writers, too, I'd like to share with Michigan librarians some of the responses from these articles.

In one I made a passing reference to a study showing that, next to social workers, librarians as a class displayed the least interest in the opposite sex. From Massachusetts came this rather touching demand for elucidation:

I want to compliment you on a well-written article, but there is one thing which bothers me and I would like you to illuminate me. As a young girl considering social work as a profession, I am struck by your statement—"Of all groups of women only

social workers showed less interest in male association." What are these groups of women who were studied? Were they graduates or undergraduates? I would appreciate the statistics which justify such a statement in regard to social workers . . . I would certainly not like to be stuck in a profession where interest in men is reduced. How do journalists rate in this respect?

It was the final question that threw me, and I am afraid my reply was not too illuminating. Many were the young librarians who wrote of their ambition to do something about getting books dirty and read, one of the injunctions in the articles. From New York one such wrote:

My own private hunch is that books don't have more use because we have never really demonstrated the usefulness of books to ordinary people in daily living. Thinking back over my own school days I realize that while a great deal was made of books as 'literature' nobody ever suggested that books could give me good and bad solutions to my problems, that using books, I didn't need to make the mistakes that somebody else had made, that books were fun, etc. My particular interest is in developing a library pattern that would make all this clear and organize and service print for such ends. In short, to hell with 'literature.'

There is a young librarian who, to my notion, is going to get somewhere. It is flattering, of course, to have people in a profession you are criticizing agree with you. It is stimulating to have them talk back, too, as did a civilian librarian in government service, writing from West Virginia:

I wish that it might be possible to have a talk of several hours with you in order to answer all the remarks made about librarians and libraries in your articles! Let me say to begin with that I heartily agree with all your suggestions but not with your ideas of bringing them about. They are far from being so easily accomplished as your article indicates.

To take the atmosphere of the army libraries, the venetian blinds, plants, pictures, lounge chairs, lamps, fans, smoking and the wonderful collection of new books you did not mention and the statement: 'most of them at little or no cost.' We had all these at Fort Bragg and more, including a radio-phonograph combination and many albums of records, machines for projecting books, etc. But the army libraries cost thousands of dollars. Far more money was spent on them than on the average public library for a town of 50,000 people. We

\* Mr. Zeisler is a newspaperman and local historian in Monroe and a lecturer in journalism at the University of Michigan.

† *Michigan Librarian*, Oct., 1947: The Library and the Community; *Library Journal*, Jan., 1948: A Library Victim Talks Back; *Survey*, March, 1949: Morgues of Culture; *Wilson Library Bulletin*, Dec., 1949: The Library, Morgue or Powerhouse of Culture; March, 1950: Translations of Ideas—A Two Way Process.



spent \$25,000 for new books alone and a great deal for the lounge chairs, blinds, lamps, fans, even outside gardens with tables and chairs, lovely, but worked by German prisoners.

The librarians were paid excellent salaries in comparison with similar civilian jobs and we had six typists to process the books and numerous enlisted men and WACs to assist. To reproduce this service in a public library would cost many times more than any public library I know about has available. Yet you say 'most of this at little or no cost!!'

Your suggestions for cost accounting would take a trained bookkeeper. Wrapping and mailing books would take more personnel. Yet 'overworked and underpaid' is the phrase I hear used most about public librarians.

In some respects it is unfortunate that the average librarian is the introvert type, a true lover of books, reading, peace and quiet. Often, too, they happen to be too meek and mild and willing to be a martyr to their profession. A certain percentage of the American public is not interested and never will be interested in books or a library.

You should change the emphasis of your articles and in your paper and beat and pound on the public to vote more tax money for more and newer books, more libraries, larger buildings. Make them the center of your community life. After all, librarians can't be experts in everything, such as publicity, speaking, radio, story-telling, dramatics and books. My theory is to leave the library atmosphere and routine to the librarians but employ experts to bring in the income and extra help to give trained librarians time to have ideas, to know their community and to read their books.

At present there just are no decent library jobs outside of government service, as far as salary, vacations, pensions, sick leave, etc. The salaries public libraries offer are even worse than teachers' salaries. Make no mistake about it. The excellent ideas you have would take time, money and personnel—far more than public libraries have at present. Here's hoping you continue to push for your ideas, but please do not make them sound as if one lone librarian with a flip of the wrist could accomplish them in a matter of minutes.

"A librarian's reach should exceed her grasp, or what's a public for"—paraphrasing Browning—was the sum and substance of my answer to that response, and not very effective either, I am afraid. An old friend, and a teacher of library science, gently ribbed me in his letter:

I read with not a little pleasure and edification about your victimization by libraries and the rental library as a 'pickle for the knowing' and blood transfusion for the anemic. Your jeremiad pounces with considerable accuracy on some of the more irritating derelictions in the housekeeping department.

I must make some slight reservations about the propriety of the free public library making a charge for services on what amounts to a discriminatory (price) basis. And I should like to be assured that more librarians couldn't do a lot better job of providing duplicates even within their ordinary and ordinarily inadequate book budgets. There is, you

know, a certain kind of librarian who operates congenitally on the principle of too little and too late, who thinks that he is doing the handsome by providing a single copy of a book. However, if the rental collection is the only answer—and possibly it is—why, let's go ahead and do it up royally. That is, until, at least, the local bookseller begins yelling his head off about government competition with free enterprise, so-called.

The profession may not know it but lay people are concerned about libraries, too. From a lady in Massachusetts, which my research convinced me is not only the cradle but also the crowning glory of libraries, came this plaintive note, signed as chairman of the board of trustees of the \_\_\_\_\_ Public Library:

Have read your article; it is excellent. I wish you would write an article on the duties of trustees. Most boards are so lax. Think most of them just want to build up their obituary notices. We know it is difficult to impress city officials that increases must be granted. It is up to the trustees to secure efficient librarians—secure equipment—and most of all to secure the monies necessary!

Don't we all say Amen! I had to confess in my reply that our library didn't even have a board of trustees; it is only an adjunct or orphan of other governmental bodies. Did you ever pretend to know all about a book some patron mentioned, only to have him bore in to the point where you wished you had confessed total ignorance in the first place? A passing reference, disparaging, to the Middle Ages let me in for this—three pages of it—from a church college librarian in Oklahoma:

Although I enjoyed parts of your article very much, there was one paragraph which indicated that you need a bit of enlightenment and much more of the research you say you did on the subject. I refer to your slurring remark about the lack of contributions to the world of books in the Middle Ages. My dear Mr. Zeisler, I thought the age had passed when *anyone* was still in ignorance about the chained books. If you will refer to any standard, reputable encyclopedia you will discover that books were chained, not to keep them from the people but to keep them *for* the people. Nothing disappears as rapidly as a book or an umbrella.

In passing over the contribution of the Middle Ages so lightly you followed this by a slur on censorship. The state protects the public health of its citizens by combatting epidemics, quarantining people infested with contagious diseases and restricting the sale of narcotics and poisons. The state even has laws prohibiting the dissemination of un-American or immoral literature. Do you consider such precautions as unnecessary, and do you mean to imply that they should be gotten rid of? Frankly, I am very grateful to both the church and the government for pointing out pitfalls and filth.

Mr. Zeisler, I do not mean to be antagonistic, but for a man who is supposed to be somewhat of a scholar to make a remark about a chained book in a day and age when all educated people know the real explanation of chained books was just too much for me to sit back and take!



After all, I was only quoting a librarian about the chained books; I am afraid I lost a reader when I replied that personally I didn't want either the church or the state to pick my reading for me. From another denominational college, this time in West Virginia, came a letter in a different vein:

Your articles have appealed to me because I believe they represent a line of thought that is becoming more and more prevalent among librarians. We, and library service, have suffered too long and too silently from the hush-hush, No-we-never-buy anything-like-that, Books-are-sacred-things School.

It seems to me the sole hope for the success of a public library, or any library, is to give its community the same quality of service it will expect and get from a public utility, a fire department or a sewage system: service engineered to give every taxpayer his money's worth. As it is we have a large part of every community contributing to a library from which they *directly* receive nothing, either because the library doesn't have what they need or want, because they don't know such help exists, or because they think of a library as a sort of mausoleum for the preservation of dead spirits and deader books. Buying library service is just like buying police service, furs or cigars: you don't get

any more than you pay for. The tragic fact is that probably a lot of libraries aren't even worth the little they do get because they are so little a part of the community.

I wish we had more citizens who were interested enough to offer their libraries the same thoughtful criticism you have. Too many just don't give a damn. And naturally, as a librarian, I'm prejudiced in favor of libraries; I believe books *can* help democracy; that books can help almost anyone do almost anything better; that a library does a better job by giving a kid the book he wants on raising rabbits instead of a long lecture on '*Why-don't-you-read-good-books*'; that books can give almost anyone pleasure and recreation; that books are made to be read, worn to shreds and thrown away—not treasured behind glass just because they happen to be books. Furthermore I've never met anyone who wasn't lying in his teeth when he said he *never* had any time to read. More power to you!

There, now, is it any wonder I say librarians are their own best salesmen for libraries, and should do more writing about the excitement and challenge of their own profession? And I think you will agree that the greatest reward from writing comes by way of the people who talk back; I love it!

**NOTICE—February 1 is the deadline for the March MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN**

## SUDDEN SERVICE

We've had some mild complaints from some of the 1100 Librarians we have served, that our books arrive *too* quickly! It seems that the books are in their receiving rooms before the order cards.

We try to maintain ample stock of each of the 450 "Standard" titles at all times. It would be a pleasure to get the above "complaint" from YOU.

**DON R. PHILLIPS**

**VANDALIA, MICHIGAN**

## A TRUSTEE LOOKS AT MICHIGAN LIBRARIES

By J. W. Baird\*

We in this country have many ideas about our libraries but we seldom look upon them as living things, reflecting all that we as a nation know, think, believe and strive for. Our libraries can be construed as reflectors of our democratic culture, but they are far from being mirrors. No one in this country dictates what our libraries shall offer us in writings, ideas, illustrations or in publishers' offers. Whatever culture a people or a race possesses is that which they have created for themselves. Culture is something that cannot be imposed upon a democratic people from the top. The library, which was a part of the culture of the world in antiquity, and is a part of our culture in this modern day, must be maintained by all the people—not just the readers, the librarians, or trustees, if it is to be an integral part of the community. Libraries in every country hold the culture of the people, it's past and present in written form. A nation is not really conquered until its culture is destroyed and that cannot be destroyed while the people can communicate their thoughts and knowledge to each other freely.

I have had the opportunity as well as the privilege of meeting with many of the librarians as well as trustees in this northern part of Michigan in the past several years and have listened to discussions of problems and in some instances have shared in the solving of mutual difficulties based on, shall we say, the trustee's point of view. As you well know, trustees have their own problems and some of us more than others, for we have to battle ideas fostered by Councilmen, and City Fathers who many times pose the same problem as faced old Uncle Amos, who had for many years been pastor of his flock. Someone said: "Uncle Amos, how many members have you got in your church?" And he replied: "I got sixteen." "Are they all active?" And the old preacher answered, "Yes, eight of them fur me and eight of them agin me."

The librarians are always faced with the time old problem of "working to get the people to read the books and to get the books that the people want and could read." Except in remote cases very few of us could afford to buy or store all we need or want of books, magazines, etc., so libraries are naturally the reposi-

\* Mr. Baird spoke at the Trustees Section luncheon at Mackinac.

tories of untold volumes for research and leisure time reading material, and so in normal times serve the people in a variety of ways. In the northern part of the state which many of you see only infrequently on your vacation trips to this never, never land—by that I mean many of you would never come if it were not for hay fever—we have libraries of all sizes, shapes and degrees of ornateness. Their services vary, of course, in accordance with their library collections, their budgets and the populations they attempt to serve. Everything that happens in the community, the nation, or the world affecting American thought or action brings new calls for library services even in this part of upper Michigan. When an author moves into a community there is created an instant demand for copies of his works for a radius of fifty miles or better by people who would perhaps never have given him a thought before. This happened just a short time ago because a certain well known author of outdoor books by the name of Dalrymple moved into the village of Wolverine, which many of you passed through on your way to this convention. This interest is also increased as he is asked to speak before Kiwanis, Rotary, etc., in towns such as Petoskey, Cheboygan and Gaylord, and elsewhere, and as a consequence becomes better known.

A new movie is shown and an instant demand arises, if it is adapted from an old or new novel, to read that novel and for any other works that the author may have in print.

A citizen turns to his library for help in business, recreation, study and all the multiple problems of home and community life. It is no small wonder then that trustees as well as librarians are in a constant state of foment trying to keep abreast of these natural demands made by their patrons and others.

Many trustees feel as I do about our small libraries. We feel that we can offer some things that the large city library cannot rival. It is often the lively center of the community's civic, recreational and adult educational activities. The librarian knows her patrons as the librarian of a metropolitan library can never hope to know hers and this increases her opportunities for service. Trustees are usually plagued with budget problems and it is a foregone conclusion that any public library cannot hope for a more adequate budget unless it can

convince the community authorities that it is performing a much needed public service. Some of the solid citizens and authorities of some communities think of the library as a provider of free fiction and think of it only as entertainment, yet we know the library must include fiction, for the reading of good fiction is highly educational and, as you well know, the problem is not the good or the bad so much as, "Is it the latest?"

The inevitable question framed by my friends of the library in places like East Jordan, Rogers City and Elk Rapids is, "Do the people of other communities, with libraries of a sort, make use of them and if so, how do they go about it?" I think the underlying thought here is, how are they getting their patrons to make use of their library and how can I formulate an idea to get increased use of the library I am interested in. The basic answer is the same, "Less than half use them." Why? It has been said quite recently that libraries are more than just a lot of books. Some libraries are made up of dull and unattractive collections donated by people who had no further use for them. Libraries, excellent years ago, are poor now because the communities could not afford to support them with sufficient funds. This is true here in the north of many of the old Carnegie Fund libraries. Many people who do not know about their library never give it a chance because it is hidden away on a side street,—the front door is at the head of a formidable fifteen or twenty steps,—and because mainly librarians do not do a good job of selling their wares. Libraries must "sell" themselves to the general public. Only in this way can the library obtain its fair share of public support and attention. In no other way can the full scope of the services that your library offers, its importance to the general welfare of the community and its plans for future progress reach the people it serves and should serve.

The need for various forms of recreation, including reading, does not stop when school and college days are over. The changing world about which students learn does not stop changing when they finish their social studies courses and an unenlightened people cannot help guide a great democracy. Our libraries, even with their shortcomings, bring satisfaction to thousands of people in this state. Extension service has helped greatly in areas prosperous enough to provide it, but progress is slow. What has been done is merely enough to demonstrate how the problem can be solved

when we decide to solve it. If we believe that library service is an important means of public enlightenment and a standing encouragement to the worthwhile use of leisure time we should act upon our faith. We must bring this advantage within reach of all our youth and all our citizens. Much has been done by social agencies and State Aid. Of late, library service has received sharp budget cuts but if we should emerge into total war, which affects everyone in the nation, the libraries can again shoulder the new responsibilities of serving as information centers and performing important defense services: We cannot in a time such as this allow our libraries to decline or to withhold their benefits from a vast number of our people. There is no need for me to emphasize that the public library exists for the citizen in time of war or peace. It aims to aid the individual in the development of intellectual, social and cultural capacities. He looks to the library for help in business, recreation, study and all the multiple problems of home and community life. The library also exists as a community center to which we turn as we seek expression of our interests and desires for group affiliation. It seeks to serve the individual through the group to which he belongs.

Sometime ago I completed some reading in *The Public Library in the Political Process* by Oliver Garceau. I was mildly surprised to run into this statement: "Most library trustees seem, to me, to be entirely innocuous." As Webster put it, meaning, having no harmful qualities. This reminds me of the story of the three men in the boat. None of them could swim. When they got to midstream one of the men took out an augur and started to bore a hole in the bottom of the boat. The other two shouted, "What are you doing?" "Tend to your own business," said he, "I am boring a hole beneath my seat only and not beneath yours." "But," shouted the other two, "we are all in the same boat." I hardly think that, harmless or not, the average appointment to a board of trustees by a Mayor or Council is predicated on harmlessness. Trustees are usually chosen for service or civic responsibility. They serve without compensation and in many instances at a personal sacrifice to perform this public service. They contribute time for board meetings, at which they seek and solve some of the problems of the library and formulate its policies. They represent the library to the community, many with active and informed interest. They study library needs and aid in securing adequate funds for

its operation; many spend unnecessary energy in interpreting the library to other citizens and contributing to an informed public opinion. Their interest often extends beyond the confines of their own community and they lend support to the state and national program. Citizen interest is by no means confined to the trustee group as we have learned. Citizens from all walks of life endorse libraries and sooner or later other good citizens will find opportunities to make the library better known in their community. As Paul Howard so aptly put it, "To be intimately connected with this peculiarly American institution, to watch its growth of service and influence, to aid it in bringing aesthetic satisfactions, social understanding and economic competence to many individuals, these are public services which bring their own rewards."

The recently published reports of the Public Library Inquiry show that while the library occupies an honorable place among public institutions and most adults like it, most adults do not use it. Library users are not a cross section of the public. The library is mainly a middle class institution. It is used neither by the rich nor the poor. It is used chiefly by the people with enough formal education to make reading easy and useful and by those without enough money to buy all the books they want. One of the conclusions that the Library Inquiry draws is that under present conditions library clientele must remain small. Another, that the library should be organized to serve those relatively few people who can make serious use of the library material. To these some of us may agree but we cannot overlook the major premise and that is that the library holds the key to public education.

Modern advertising has changed many habits of the American people,—what we eat, what we drink, where we go and what we read. To get the necessary action the consent of the public must be engineered in the desired direction. We must focus public opinion on the crisis confronting the public library in a way that will bring about a social change in favor of a broader and more extensive public library system. By itself the library will only be able to get as far as it has been able to get. Three forces work together to bring such a change, public opinion, action of voluntary groups, and the law.

There must be more extended effort in the struggle to increase the public interest in libraries. What we still need today are voluntary groups to educate the public about librar-

ies and so increase the necessary public demand for laws and funds that will improve our existing library system. Now I know, of course, this is what the M.L.A. and our library groups are doing already: they are doing it on a state and local basis, but perhaps our one weakness is in our public relations apathy. Someone has said, "Public relations is just personal relations 24 hours a day." All the ways I know of getting publicity and establishing good public relations lead through personal relations. In this business of pushing libraries—all libraries—not just our own, we must not lose sight of one thing in our make up, that is peculiarly American, that of persuading people: that means selling library service whether it is in a town of 500, 5000, or 50,000. To make public relations effective you have to break down barriers of indifference, barriers raised by "don't knows" and by "don't cares." If you do not think this is true, let me quote to you from the record of a study made not long ago. In this study of some 300 people living in a rural area, only 17 miles from the nearest library, 4 out of every 130 used the library. Average schooling was 7.7 years, 98% read the newspapers, 58% of them read daily papers, 92% read magazines (mostly farm journals), 83% used or listened to radio.

Asked what kept them from reading more books:

- 52% Had no time
- 22% Were not interested in reading books
- 18% Complained of limited supply
- 8% Had poor eyesight or could not read English

The locale of this study had never had libraries. The study showed that when people had not known what library service was, they naturally did not feel the need for service.

16% who were used to library service and had had it before moving to this area, made appreciable use of the present facilities.

When the questionnaire was issued asking what was wanted by this community, the answers were:

1. Public service, evening classes or discussion groups.
2. Public health.
3. Public library service.
4. Electrification of farms.
5. Improved roads.

Non-users placed the library fifth. Among library users it was placed in top rank. The writer of this article states that as a child she knew a library to be a locked cupboard of

books. I assume the state some and, if so, mise, "education library se or local stration vice before. The w different areas, and poses for brary fie is to go the who public se be devis talks, new ums and of the lib in turn into the one tech the libra the proc librarian are doing ship and lish bett education provide commun good lib and good vice. Bu in the politician must be the may influent they can sentative him to v legislati and con small vi brary is am of f are, tha taking for afte even in matters focal p represen

books. I presume it is not too far fetched to assume that we perhaps have in this glorious state some areas such as this study discloses, and, if so, may I allude again to a major premise, "that the library holds the key to public education." Certainly in areas such as these, library service will remain difficult until state or local agencies set up a program of demonstration to acquaint non-users of library service before asking them to subscribe to it.

The wants of the above 300 people are no different from the wants of many in our home areas, and what a wonderful opportunity it poses for those of us whose interest in the library field is paramount. The emphasis now is to go on extending the libraries' service to the whole community, to those who want public service, through every means that can be devised, radio programs, exhibits, book talks, newspaper columns, participation in forums and all of the other ways of getting out of the library to where people are, which will in turn work in reverse and get people back into the library. This is a part or phase of one technique of getting people interested in the library. There is nothing mysterious in the process of public relations. It is all that librarians, trustees, and friends of the library are doing in their daily lives to build friendship and good-will for their library; to establish better understanding of the cultural and educational services the library does and can provide and to make and keep the library a community institution. Someone has said that good library service is good public relations and good public relations is good library service. But there is more to it. Library trustees in the normal course of town life are not politicians in a professional sense but there must be a friendly cultivation of city officials; the mayor and the councilmen; they must be influential enough in their community so that they can talk to the state Senator or Representative and tell him how they would like him to vote on any matter pertaining to library legislation, and present him with intelligent and convincing data so that the relation of the small village or city library and the State Library is not obscured by legislative apathy. I am of the opinion, as no doubt many of you are, that trustees are seemingly reticent about taking active part in conventions such as this, for after all this is a librarians' convention: even in our district and regional meetings the matters of the trustee's interest do not reach a focal point due perhaps to the lack of large representation, but do not let it be said that

the interests of the trustees are not so well received by the state legislature as any others. For the reason that we as yet are not certified as a pressure group and certainly our whole interest is community service, the responsibility of creating good public relations is a part of the job of the trustees, librarians, and friends of the library. It enters into everything that we can do. Think in terms of building understanding of your work and creating good will for your library and you will find that you are a long way on the road to unsolved public relations problems.

**ATTENTION—ALL NEWLY APPOINTED CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND SECTIONS. February 1 is the deadline for the March issue of the MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN. Let the Association know about your plans and activities.**

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# THE 1951 WHO'S WHO

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 Robert M. Orr, Grosse Pointe Public Library (1953).  
 Virginia E. Summers, Lansing Public Library (1951)  
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*Vice-Chairman:* Arlene Marks, Emmanuel Missionary College, Berrien Springs.

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*Chairman:* Arthur Yabroff, Detroit Public Library, (1952).

Eleanor Ferguson, Dearborn Public Library, (1951).

Mrs. Marion Wilcox, McGregor Public Library, Highland Park, (1951).

Hazel De Meyer, Western Michigan College of Education, Kalamazoo, (1952).

Jean Lloyd, Baldwin Public Library, Birmingham, (1951).

DeLyle Runge, Grand Rapids Public Library, (1951).

Richard Malone, Detroit Public Library, (1952).

Cecelia Hoffman, Detroit Public Library, (1951).

Maureen Fisher, Niles Public Library, (1952).

Karl O. Burg, Traverse City Public Library, (1952).

Charles Follo, (Trustee), Upper Area, University of Michigan Extension Service, Jr. High School, Escanaba, (1951).

Mrs. Thelma Kramer, (Trustee), 4845 Elizabeth Lake Road, Pontiac, (1951).

Norman J. Bunker, Ironwood Public Library, (1952).

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*Chairman:* Lucille Prange, East Grand Rapids High School, (1952).

Pauline Sargent, Bullard Public Library, Vassar, (1951).

Hazel Whipple, Branch County Library, Coldwater, (1951).

Elizabeth McPhail, Detroit Public Library, (1952).

Mrs. Corinne Wascher, Willard Library, Battle Creek, (1952).

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Mrs. Mildred Kumer Hulme, Dearborn Public Library, (1951).

Hazel Cleveland, Western Michigan College Library, Kalamazoo, (1951).

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Ruth Warncke, Kent County Library, Grand Rapids, (1952).

Mrs. Joseph Herbert, (Trustee), Manistique, (1952).

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Dena Babcock, Menominee County Library, Stephenson, (1951).

Virginia Summers, Lansing Public Library, (1951).

Mrs. Fannie Noonan, Michigan State Library, Lansing, (1951).

Mrs. Mildred Hutto, Hamtramck Public Library, (1951).

Mrs. Mary Daume, Monroe County Library, (1952).

Merrill M. Jones, Michigan State College Library, East Lansing, (1952).

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Eudocia Stratton, Michigan State Library, Lansing, (1952).

Katharine M. Stokes, (ex officio), Western Michigan College Library, Kalamazoo.

Walter K. Halsted, (ex officio), Wayne County Library, Detroit.

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Mary F. Meinberg, Spier Public Library, Menominee, (1952).

Mrs. Thelma Campbell, Holt Public School Library, (1952).

### THE MICHIGAN LIBRARIAN

*Editor-in-Chief:* Katharine M. Stokes, Western Michigan College Library, Kalamazoo.

*Assistant Editor:* Mate Graye Hunt, Western Michigan College, Kalamazoo.

*Business and Advertising Manager:* Walter K. Halsted, Wayne County Library, Detroit.

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Eleanor Short, Manistee Public Library.  
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*Forrest Alter*, Detroit Public Library, (1952).  
*Catherine Wohl*, S.E.Branch, Dearborn Public Library, (1952).  
*Mary Vocelle*, Detroit Public Library, (1952).

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*Director, 1950-54:* Taisto J. Niemi, Western Michigan College Library, Kalamazoo.

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*Vice-Chairman:* Dena Babcock, Menominee County Library, Stephenson.  
*Secretary-Treasurer:* Maud Grill, Jackson County Library.

##### **Hospital Library Section**

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*Secretary:* Mrs. Mary Thompson, Bacon Memorial Library, Wyandotte.

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*Dr. Walton E. Cole*, 1028 Harvard Road, Grosse Pointe.  
*Mrs. Florence Dearing*, Hartland.  
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*Region One:* Mrs. Margaret Hamersmith, 17200 Pierson, Detroit.  
*Region Two:* Louise Waider, Longfellow Junior High School, Flint.  
*Region Three:* Stella Thompson, Eaton Rapids High School.  
*Region Four:* Edna Bibby, Central High School, Grand Rapids.  
*Region Five:* No section.  
*Region Six:* Clinton Dillon, Rochester High School.  
*Region Seven:* Loretta McDonough, Ishpeming High School.  
*Region Eight:* Dorothea Butts, Kellogg High School, Battle Creek.

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*Second Vice-President:* Robert Y. Coward, General Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.  
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#### **Executive Board**

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Mabel Louise Conat, Detroit Public Library.

#### **Council**

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George F. Hanson, Olivet College Library, Representing Music Library Association.

Donald W. Kohlstedt, Grand Rapids Public Library, Representing M.L.A. (1952).

Charles M. Mohrhardt, Detroit Public Library (1953).

Robert M. Orr, Grosse Pointe Public Library, Representing M.L.A. (1953).

Virginia E. Summers, Lansing Public Library, Representing M.L.A. (1951).

Ralph A. Ulveling, Detroit Public Library, Past President (Without vote).

#### **Committees, Boards, Divisions and Round Tables**

William Warner Bishop, 733 Oakland Avenue, Ann Arbor, A.L.A. Representative emeritus for life, International Library Committee.

Hobart R. Coffey, Law Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Committee on Constitution and By-Laws (1951).

Martin Cohen, Kalamazoo Public Library, Committee on Relations with Business Groups.

Mabel Louise Conat, Detroit Public Library, Committee on Midwinter Meetings.

Benjamin A. Custer, Detroit Public Library, Membership Committee Regional Chairman (1951); Committee on Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of A.L.A.; Program Committee and Parliamentarian, Division of Cataloging and Classification.

Mrs. Mary Dickey Dearing, Detroit Public Library, Projected Books Committee.

Fred L. Dimock, University of Michigan General Library, Ann Arbor, Serials Committee.

Mrs. Loleta D. Fyan, State Library, Lansing, Committee on Boards and Committees (1952); Budget Committee; Chairman, Committee on Committee Appointments; Chairman, Committee on Midwinter Meetings; Program Committee; Committee on Relations with Publishers; Chairman, Committee on Study of State Library Agencies; Chairman, Standards Committee and Committee on Merger of Library Extension Division, Public Libraries Division and Trustees Division, Library Extension Division (Old).

Dorothy F. Hagberg, Detroit Public Library, Committee on Intercultural Action (1951); Detroit Chairman, Membership Committee.

Mrs. Dorothy T. Hagerman, 1405 Elliott St., S.E., Grand Rapids, Executive Secretary, Trustees

Division (1953).

Claxton E. Helms, Allegan Public Library, Committee on Boards and Committees (1951); Joint Committee on Library Work as a Career, Representing M.L.A.

Dorothy E. Hiatt, Macomb County Library, Director, Library Extension Division (Old).

Mrs. Thekla Reese Hodgson, Duffield Branch, Detroit Public Library, Director, representing Branch Librarians Section, Division of Public Libraries (Old).

Jeannette Johnson, State Library, Lower Peninsula, Cadillac, Chairman, Bookmobile Committee, Library Extension Division (Old).

Walter H. Kaiser, Wayne County Library, Committee on Library Architecture and Building Planning (1952); Director-at-large, Division of Public Libraries (Old).

Beatrice Kobe, Hamtramck Public Library, Regional Chairman, Membership Committee (1951).

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Alice Louise LeFevre, Department of Librarianship, Western Michigan College, Kalamazoo, Editorial Committee (1952); Subscription Books Committee (1952).

John G. Lorenz, State Library, Lansing, ACRL Committee on Constitution and By-Laws.

Charles M. Mohrhardt, Detroit Public Library, Joint Committee, Canadian Library Association and A.L.A.

Kurtz Myers, Detroit Public Library, Audio-Visual Board (1953).

Eugene B. Power, Projected Books, Inc., 313 North First Street, Ann Arbor, Projected Books Committee.

G. Flint Purdy, Wayne University Library, Detroit, Statistics Committee; ACRL Committee on Statistics; Library Education Committee (ex-officio as immediate past president, 1950-51).

Louise F. Rees, State Library, Lansing, Statistics Committee.

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Ralph A. Ulveling, Detroit Public Library, U.S. National Commission for Unesco Panel on Libraries.

Bernard Van Horne, Detroit Public Library, Committee on Personnel Administration and Recruiting, Division of Public Libraries (Old).

Mary D. Vocelle, Detroit Public Library, Institution Libraries Committee (1951).

Ruth Warncke, Kent County Library, Grand Rapids, Adult Education Board (1954).

# A NEW CONCEPT IN LIBRARY SERVICE

By R. E. Mahoney  
Detroit Public Library

National library surveys regularly report on the "have nots", the millions of people having no access to library service. During the past twenty-five years our public libraries have struggled to dig a broad channel and open the floodgates of free circulating materials to those areas whose need is like an arid area's need for water. Some progress has been made but the problem is still with us just as surely as crime and fire.

There are more than enough libraries to do the job, if they were strategically located. But it takes more than numbers and strategic location. Many are too small, exist on too narrow a tax base and are not open a full-work week. The county library movement is an attempt to give a broader tax base, greater reading variety, and financial stability. Although meeting with some success, the county libraries often have not been able to fully satisfy local pride. Small communities are usually reluctant to relinquish local control of an educational or cultural institution. Attempts to develop library service in new areas, through state funds, have met with uneven results: considerable progress is being made in some states, not much in others. Some states are reluctant to appropriate funds for locally autonomous units since they have no direct control over the expenditure.

## New York State Experiment

After an extensive survey, New York State decided to reject conventional procedures and experiment with a new library approach. Careful study of other state agencies revealed the gradual emergence of a broad definable program in which the state assumed some responsibilities formerly handled on a purely local basis.

This shift in emphasis and direction was attributed to a combination of circumstances, including shortage of local funds, increasing cost of equipment (some only part of the year), larger tax base of the state and a greater degree of technical competence. Gradually, for example, the state assumed the responsibility for through highways while local units restricted their highway efforts to constructing and maintaining local roads and streets. Similarly, the state assumed a major share of relief and health responsibilities—the amount and extent of unemployment and sickness often be-

ing beyond the control and finances of local communities. Thus a division of responsibility was made—local authorities continuing to exercise local autonomy (over local functions) while the balance of responsibilities was assumed by the state. Dividing responsibility was like running a knife between layers of chocolate cake and lifting the top layer into a new jurisdiction. Thus the division of functions between two governmental levels was the key used (by the survey group) in solving the state library problem. The following guiding rules were established:

1. Provision for maximum local control and initiative.
2. Larger units of service are needed for efficient operation.

Operating with these principals the following division of duties was made:

### STATE:

1. Purchase and supply books except light fiction and standard reference books.
2. Provide professional leadership and advice to local libraries.
3. Stimulate cooperation between local libraries through advisory services, interlibrary loans, union catalogue, regional library meetings and regular newsletters.

### LOCAL:

1. Provide places and personnel for the distribution of materials.
2. Supply books not purchased by the state.

In order to carry out the state's part of the program, provision was made for fifteen Regional Library Service Centers, financed by the state. The centers would blanket the state and operate very much like any other wholesaler serving a group of retail outlets. Some would be organized and operated by the State Library, as branches, like the present Watertown Regional Center. In other areas, a strong local library might be given a contract to perform the services of a center for its region.

The Watertown Regional Center has been in operation about two years. The State Research Division (of the Education Department) has subjected the three-county area to a careful study. At the end of twenty-one months the Division reported the Watertown experiment had: "... demonstrated the ad-

(Continued on page 24)



## LIBRARY SERVICE ABROAD

*Compiled from letters from Ruth Krueger*

*Formerly of Kalamazoo College Library*

There was a loud banging on the door of a flat in Seoul. It was 1:30 on the morning of June 25. "Miss Holt, Miss Krueger," somebody yelled, "pack your bags and be ready to move out by three o'clock."

This was the way in which Miss Beatrice Holt, of Denver, Colorado, and Miss Ruth Krueger, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, both librarians with the United States Information Service, first learned that South Korea was being invaded by the Reds.

While Northern tanks were rolling down from the 38th Parallel, these two were frantically packing their belongings together. There was no light, and the authorities wouldn't allow Miss Holt to use her torch because of Northern planes patrolling the sky over Seoul.

They could hear guns blazing as they cleared out of their flat and climbed into a rickety bus which took them 30 miles over the rough terrain to the port of Inchon. Here they boarded a Norwegian freighter, which smelled horribly of the cargo of fertilizer it had just unloaded.

At the beginning of this year both were given leave of absences to join the USIS. Their job was to take over 12 libraries in South Korea and operate them for American GIs and South Koreans.

### **Visit to 38th Parallel**

They started their job from their headquarters in Seoul at the beginning of the spring. They employed Koreans to help them and 90 percent of them were North Koreans who had come south. They took them because they spoke better English.

Only the day before they were called out of bed and given their marching orders, Miss Holt and Miss Krueger had been on the 38th Parallel—and had actually been speaking to soldiers of the North.

They had heard how fed up the South Korean soldiers were up at the border, so they decided to go and cheer them up. The soldiers had been there for five months with nothing to look at but the mud, so the librarians took some American magazines with them. Many of the soldiers probably couldn't read, but there were pictures to look at.

The welcome they got was terrific. They went up to a place call Chunchon. A South Korean lieutenant was so pleased to see them

that he sent his men out to gather wild flowers, and he presented them with a posy.

It was very calm at the border at this time, although they had heard of the frequent exchanges and trouble between the two lines of troops.

As they walked along the trenches, the Korean soldiers flocked around them. They were small, and like little boys. Over the river they could see the trenches of the North Koreans.

Some Red soldiers were standing up and calling them to go over. They didn't and it isn't surprising after what they saw on the bridge spanning the river.

In the middle of the bridge a man lay sprawled out, dead. He had tried to cross from north to south and had been shot while crossing. Both sides were frightened to go and get him and he had been there for several days.

A South Korean told the two librarians that the Northerners were often calling the soldiers of the south to desert and go across the river.

Although this was only a day before the war began there was no sign of preparations in the North, and they saw no armament at all. The Northerners, in fact, were very friendly although they probably didn't know that the librarians were Americans.

There had been a lot of activity between North and South before the war started, although the outside world seemed to know little about it. Ever since 1945, the Northerners had made landings on the South Korea coast, and there were many attempts to cross the border.

For this reason they weren't very worried when they heard about activity at the border on the Saturday night the war started. The officials in Seoul were not worried, either. The librarians asked them if they should take any precautions, but they said that any instructions would be given next morning.

But they couldn't wait that long. Those 1½ hours between 1:30 a.m. and 3:00 a.m. were the most hectic in the librarians' lives.

They got shoes mixed up, couldn't find dresses, and all in all were in a mess. "We'll never make it," they kept saying to themselves.

And they didn't "make it." Both of them came out of Seoul without most of their clothes.

### Departure from Seoul

As they left Seoul in the bleak hours of the morning, they could hear planes overhead and guns barking. They passed the airfield where departing aircraft were so full that no one was allowed to take any baggage.

"We found out later," writes Miss Krueger, "that when we left, the Northern tanks were only 17 miles away. There were more State Department officials than soldiers there. If they'd given us rifles we would have made a sizable army!"

She goes on, "Bea and I just happened to get on the Reinholt and what a time we had. There were 683 passengers, mostly dependents women and children—on this freighter which had cabin space for 12 passengers! The first night on board was wonderful. We slept under the stars. Most of us had not been in bed since Sunday a.m. and were tired enough to sleep anywhere. Tuesday p.m. it began to rain and continued until we landed Wednesday late p.m. We were a bit bedraggled but our spirits held up. There were only about four 'stinkers' on the ship and some of the passengers were expert managers, chief among them a young army nurse from KMAG in Seoul. Miss Visscher of UNICEF set up what I term the 'bottling works.' Some foresighted person had brought on board the baby food from the commissary and formulas were made up and bottles washed and sterilized for the mothers who had small babies. This was an around the clock program and those sans children were scheduled on 2-4 hour shifts. Our main diet was cheese sandwiches. Some of us don't like cheese too well at present! This was varied or rather supplemented with fruit juice at breakfast and stew at noon. The stew was served to us in juice tins, with no silver, so we *drank* thick stew."

### Tokyo, July 28

"Tonight sometime, weather permitting, Bea and I take off for Hong Kong on a 'temporary duty' assignment—TDY in our parlance. Bea's order is for approximately 30 days and mine until Miss Sullivan arrives from the States. Both of us are to return to Tokyo. We doubt this but have a round trip ticket on PAA. Everyone here is envious of us. As Bea says, this assignment is a shot in the arm for librarianship since we are the first of all the evacuees to be reassigned. There are many surplus secretaries as well as VIP's lying around in the plush rest hotels in Japan. We never did get a chance at that luxury. By some quirk several State Department people

were shipped to Tokyo with the U.N. representatives. We were neither expected nor wanted and were told by someone who should have taken care of us that we 'were a problem.' Only those who were asked for by some office were supposed to be cleared for Tokyo. No sneaking into the city! We didn't ask to come nor want to come but we got here. Bea got on the telephone next day and we ended up with jobs and were billeted. Without a job you get your own billet and Japanese hotels are very expensive. The SCAP CI & E libraries were desperate for librarians and they were willing to have us loaned to them. They have tried to get us to join the Army and work for them permanently, and well they might with ten vacancies to fill! Recruiting for the Far East has its problems especially at the present time!

"Our chief of USIE, who stayed in Korea with the ambassador and several others of the embassy, hopes to return his 'little empire' to Korea and has asked that we all be kept in the Far East until such time as we may return. Looks like a long time to go but who knows."

### Hong Kong, August 17

"We arrived here July 29. Bea remains for another 2 or 3 weeks. From here she goes to Kuala Lumpur, near Singapore, to get the library there in shape, then to Saigon for same purpose. There will be other similar assignments. Today the Public Affairs Officer in charge of USIE composed an airmail from Washington, asking that I be assigned permanently. He doesn't want to wait until October or November for Miss Sullivan to arrive. I am not certain that I am happy about this and may ask him to hold off.

"USIE is comparatively new here and the library was opened May 1. It is now housed in small but very attractive quarters. The furniture was designed especially for this room. The central location and the fact that there is no public library in the Colony account for a thriving business. Unfortunately limited space and building rental problems are forcing us to move—into a temporary building now being completed. It will house USIE as well as some of the officers of the Consulate General. We will move within a few weeks. The library staff is made up of Chinese who have worked in the United States libraries in China. They are well trained and speak good English. Quite a difference from the nationals in Korea. Few spoke good English, some spoke none at all, many had no idea of the philosophy of American libraries. Some of the libraries

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in Korea operated on the Japanese plan of storing rather than lending and using books.

"At present we are living most comfortably with two other employees of the Consulate. Each has a room with bath in a large home. We have a good cook, a Chinese. His family does the laundry and cleaning, a gardener keeps the lovely shaded yard well trimmed. We live on top of a big hill where we have breezes when they are around. This will not last forever for the house is to be turned over to a family when they arrive. In the meantime we enjoy the luxury of space, air, and congenial company, as well as service. The climate is pretty bad, at least in my opinion. The tropics would not be my choice.

"In connection with our present quarters I intended to contrast them with Seoul and Tokyo—Tokyo was definitely army barracks and very crowded. No less than two in a room with showers, lavatory and toilet down the hall. The cots were equipped with thin, lumpy mattresses and the food was army mess style. In Seoul there were several Embassy housing units. We lived in the Nai Ja Apartments. Some of the women had most attractive apartments, furnished with the standard army furniture it is true, but with additions which gave them individuality. Some of the girls had bought lovely old Korean chests, tables, pottery and figures for their apartments. Only a few shared apartments. I had two rooms and a tiny lavatory. Some had two and three rooms and although we had a dining room many did considerable cooking in limited space and with a few electrical gadgets. When the dining room food became tiresome, which it often did, Bea and I treated ourselves with a home-cooked meal in her house.

"Transportation in Seoul was very inadequate and we had ordered a jeep station wagon. It came through Hong Kong the other day aboard the Pleasantville which was shelled by communists on Lema Island. No damage, we were relieved. The jeep will be stored in our warehouse in Yokohama until we decide what to do with it. My trunks had not yet arrived when we left Seoul and they, too, are in the warehouse. At the moment I hardly need the things I packed for 2-5 years in Korea where one needs winter clothes and a few for warmer seasons. There is a hot season, but not a long one.

"There were nine USIE centers in Korea and two subcenters, each with libraries at-

tached. We felt we were just getting a start on the job of organizing the work. We had visited the libraries and knew the picture in each city. The trips were interesting although a bit wearing. We met many fine people who were doing good work, others needed a little direction, still others needed to be replaced! We often wonder what has happened to the doctors, teachers, etc., we were attempting to serve. We also wish we could have some of the many books we had in Korea. The library here is so new that many of the important things have not yet come from the States."

### MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

The Michigan Association of School Librarians held the first of two organizational meetings at Haven Hill Lodge, Milford, Michigan, November 3-4, 1950, to ratify the proposed constitution and elect its officers. Those elected were:

*President:* Josephine Smith, Fordson High School, Dearborn.

*Vice-President:* Hazel Brown, Longfellow Elementary School, Royal Oak.

*Recording Secretary:* Theodosia Conklin, Lincoln Park High School.

*Corresponding Secretary:* Jane Hartsig, River Rouge High School.

*Treasurer:* Retha Johnson, Lincoln Junior High School, Wyandotte.

One of the purposes of the new association is to offer school librarians an opportunity to discuss mutual problems. Another objective is to promote a better understanding of what the school librarian has to offer to administrators, teachers and students.

Membership is on a state-wide basis and is open to all school and teacher-librarians of Michigan.

The final organizational meeting will be held on Saturday, January 13, 1951, at the Longfellow Elementary School, Royal Oak. It will be an all day meeting starting at 9:30 A.M. Charter membership is open to those attending this meeting.

Librarians interested in becoming members may contact Josephine Smith, Fordson High School Library, Dearborn, Michigan.

Esther B. Ham,  
Chairman  
Publications Committee

## SECTION MEETINGS

### REFERENCE SECTION

The Reference Section held its spring meeting in Ann Arbor on Friday, May 12th. Registration at 10:00 a.m. was followed by a visit to the Michigan Historical Collections in the Rackham Building. Dr. Warner G. Rice was the speaker at the noon luncheon in the Michigan Union. (See: "The Librarian As Teacher" Michigan Librarian, Oct. 1950). In the afternoon the group visited the Audio-Visual Education Center, Law Library, and the Library of the School of Business Administration. Exhibits of microfilm and microcard readers, and of recent reference books, were set up in the General Library. A tea concluded the program. 85 people attended.

The annual business meeting was held on September 2nd, at 8:00 a.m., in the Pontiac Room of the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island. After breakfast, attended by 14 persons, the meeting was called to order by the chairman. The resignation of Miss Margaret Keefe as secretary-treasurer of the section was announced, and Miss Dorothy Berry, Detroit Public Library, was appointed temporary secretary. The minutes of the Fall 1949 and Spring 1950 meetings were read and approved.

Mr. John Lorenz, State Library, reported on the progress of the Index of Michigan Newspapers. In spite of the fact that the results of the preliminary inquiry made by the committee were very discouraging, the Section felt that the project is important and should be continued. Mrs. Fyan told us about the Rockefeller Foundation grant to Michigan State College for historical studies and suggested that some aid for compiling the index might be available from this source. The possibilities are to be investigated.

The chairman asked for an expression of opinion on the desirability of holding a Spring meeting each year and it seemed to be felt that one should be held and that we might invite the College Section to make it a joint meeting of the two Sections.

The officers for the year 1950-1951 are:

Chairman, Miss Florence Harnau, Hackley Public Library, Muskegon.

Vice-Chairman and Chairman-elect, Mrs. Mildred Limond Hutto, Hamtramck Public Library.

Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Claxton Helms, Allegan Public Library.

Mildred Kumer Hulme, Chairman  
1949-1950

### TRUSTEES SECTION

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Trustees Section of M.L.A. was held at Lansing, September 30, 1950.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. by Mrs. William Kramer, Chairman of Trustees Section.

Roll call found present:

Mrs. William Kramer, Chairman

Mrs. Ruth Schaub

Mrs. Phil Bradstrum

Miss Eudocia Stratton

Mrs. Clayton Campbell

Absent members:

Mr. McKibben

Mr. Follo

Mr. Straub

Mrs. Beebe

Mrs. Taylor

Mrs. Shippey

Minutes of the last Executive Committee meeting (August 12) were read by Mrs. Schaub, who was secretary pro-tem of that meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Correspondence consisted of notes of regret from several members that they could not attend this meeting.

The report of the Nominating Committee was read by the secretary in the absence of the committee chairman, Mrs. Montgomery Webster.

The slate presented by the Nominating Committee was as follows:

For:

*First Vice-Chairman*: Mrs. Frank Kemp, 1 year.

*Second Vice-Chairman*: Mr. Charles Follo, 1 year.

*Secretary*: Mrs. Franklin Reck, 2 years.

Nominations from the floor were called for:

*First Vice-Chairman*: none

*Second Vice-Chairman*: Mrs. J. J. Herbert

*Secretary*: none

There being but one nominee for the office of First Vice-Chairman and of Secretary, Mrs. Frank Kemp was declared elected by the Chairman for one year as First Vice-Chairman and Mrs. Franklin Reck for two years as Secretary.

By show of hands Mrs. J. J. Herbert was unanimously chosen and the Chair declared Mrs. J. J. Herbert elected for one year as Second Vice-Chairman.

Mrs. Kramer appointed Mrs. Campbell as Membership Chairman.

It was announced: that A.L.A. had combined Public Libraries, Extension Division, and Trustees Division into one section; and that Mrs. Dorothy Hagerman had been elected Secretary of Trustees Section of A.L.A.

The secretary was requested to send a letter of congratulation to Mrs. Fyan on her election as Vice-President and President Elect of A.L.A.

The Executive Board will meet in February.

Edith Campbell, Secretary

#### SCHEDULE OF MLA DISTRICT MEETINGS 1951

Theme: Books Have Ideas—Ideas Have Power

District	Place	Date	Chairman
I	Dowagiac	May 3	William Chait
II	Monroe	April 19	Mary Daume
III	Flint	April 27	Laura Steese
IV	Ionia, Probably		Claxton Helms
V	Eaton Rapids	April 24	Dorothy Rozek
VI	Tawas City	May 15	Ruth Wittbecker
VII	Stephenson	May 17	Alice Clapp

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## HELP THE M. L. A. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

In the March, 1950, issue of the *Michigan Librarian* the names of the senators and representatives making up the Michigan Legislature were listed in order to remind M.L.A. members to urge the legislators in their communities to support the bill for State Aid for libraries. Now that an election has occurred and a new State Aid Bill will be coming up for consideration after January 1, 1951, M.L.A. members are again urged to help their Legislative Committee by speaking personally to their local legislators and by being especially careful to inform those newly elected about library needs. Following are the names of the new members of the Senate and the House. The names of the continuing members may be found in the March *Michigan Librarian*, pages 6 to 10.

### SENATE

#### District

- 3 3rd, 5th, and 7th Wards of Detroit and the City of Hamtramck
- 8 Counties of Allegan, Barry and Van Buren
- 11 Counties of Macomb, Lapeer and St. Clair
- 15 Counties of Clinton, Eaton and Shiawassee
- 17 1st Ward of Grand Rapids and all the townships of Kent County
- 18 City of Highland Park, That part of the 8th and 12th Wards of Detroit lying north of the Detroit Terminal Railroad, 16th and 17th Wards of Detroit, Townships of Greenfield, Redford, Livonia and Northville and Plymouth in Wayne County
- 20 Counties of Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac
- 22 County of Saginaw
- 23 Counties of Muskegon and Ottawa
- 25 Counties of Gratiot, Ionia, Mecosta and Montcalm
- 27 Counties of Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Missaukee, and Wexford
- 31 Counties of Marquette, Iron, Gogebic, and Dickinson

Charles C. Diggs (D)  
693 Mack  
Detroit 1  
Edward Hutchinson (R)  
662 West Main Street  
Fennville  
Frank D. Beadle (R)  
629 North Fifth Street  
St. Clair  
James M. Teahen, Jr. (R)  
311 North Washington Street  
Owosso  
Charles R. Feenstra (R)  
2181 44th Street, SE  
Grand Rapids  
Clarence A. Reid (R)  
16155 Northlawn  
Detroit 21

Alpheus P. Decker (R)  
Deckerville  
Donald W. Gilbert (R)  
1949 Gratiot  
Saginaw  
Frank E. McKee (R)  
Circle Drive  
North Muskegon  
Milo A. Johnson (R)  
R.F.D. #1  
Greenville  
Felix H. H. Flynn (R)  
509 East Garfield  
Cadillac  
Joseph P. Cloon (R)  
210 Hancock Street  
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Alger District  
John F. Wood (R) Manistique

Allegan County  
Ben E. Lohman (R) Hamilton

Alpena District  
Gerald W. Graves (R) Alpena

Bay County  
Arthur C. MacKinnon (R) Bay City

Berrien County  
Don R. Pears (R) St. Joseph  
Robert E. Faulkner (R) Coloma

Calhoun County  
W. Reed Orr (R) Battle Creek

Clinton County  
Andrew W. Cobb (R) Elsie

Dickinson District  
James Goulette (R) Iron Mountain

Genesee County  
Joseph T. Flanigan (D) Flint  
George A. Gillespie (R) Gaines

Hillsdale District  
Frederick J. Marshall (R) Allen

Huron County  
Howard Nugent (R) Bad Axe

Ingham County  
Lawrence B. Lindemor (R) Stockbridge

Ionia County  
Lloyd Gibbs (R) Portland

Jackson County  
Wilfred G. Bassett (R) Jackson  
Leo Miller (R) Jackson

Kalamazoo County  
Cyril H. Root (R) Kalamazoo

Kent County  
Thomas J. Whinery (R) Grand Rapids  
Harry T. Emmons (R) Grand Rapids  
Irving Pennington (R) Sparta

Mason District  
Kenneth O. Trucks (R) Baldwin

Montcalm County  
George A. Kohn (R) Fenwick

Muskegon County  
Louis H. Freye (R) Muskegon

Ottawa County  
George M. Van Peursem (R) Zeeland

Saginaw County  
Holly E. Hubbell (R) Saginaw

Sanilac County  
Herb Clements (R) Deckerville

Tuscola County  
Allison Green (R) Kingston

Wayne County  
Edward H. Jeffries (D) Detroit  
T. John Lesinski (D) Detroit  
Gerald L. Murphy (D) Detroit  
Charline White (D) Detroit  
Albert J. Zak (D) Hamtramck  
William P. Littlewood (R) Wyandotte

The member continuing for the 2nd District, Muskegon County, who was omitted in the March listing is:  
Walter H. Nill (D) Muskegon Heights

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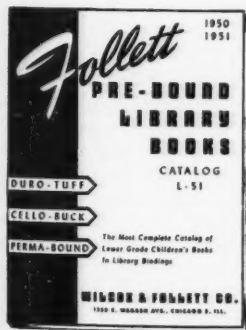
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## THE BAY CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND SCHOOL LIBRARIES

*The Bay City Public Library and School Libraries.* Richard James Hurley and Clifford B. Wightman. Ann Arbor, Michigan: The Edwards Letter Shop 1949. Pp. iv 146. (Mimeographed.)

To evaluate the Bay City public library and school library system means investigating five different libraries which are supported by public funds and which are administered by three different boards. Unification of all libraries under one board was recommended by Dr. Carleton Joeckel in his survey completed in 1930. Eighteen years passed and no action had been taken on Dr. Joeckel's suggestions. Some of Bay City's citizens again became concerned as to the adequacy and the efficiency of their library systems. The result was the authorization of a survey of all library facilities jointly financed by the three governing boards: The Boards of Trustees of the Bay City Public Library, the Sage Library, and the Board of Education.

The late Cecil J. McHale, Professor of Library Service at the University of Michigan, was employed to conduct the evaluation. He, in turn, asked his colleague, Richard James Hurley, to assist in the work. Following Mr.

McHale's untimely death Mr. Hurley was asked to take over the responsibility of completing the study. With the assistance of Mr. Clifford B. Wightman, Director of the Hackley Public Library in Muskegon, the work went on. Mr. Wightman was responsible for the public library analysis while Mr. Hurley worked on the school, children's rooms and young people's departments.

Following the pattern used by Mr. McHale in his appraisal of the Lansing Public Library system there are succinct accounts of Bay City history and of the development of the two public library systems, especially necessary for a clear understanding of the complicated Bay City Library picture. Each library was analyzed by the usual measuring sticks of administration, finances, library personnel, public services, book collection, etc., with specific recommendations at the end of each section. Public library work with young people and children was under the same scrutiny as were the school libraries—elementary, high school and junior college. Here again specific recommendations were made.

The overall recommendations at the end of the public library study point out that for the amount of money Bay City is investing, \$65,456, it is not receiving the most and best library service it should have. Separate purchasing procedures, duplication of staff efforts and of resources are costly. Consolidation of efforts is certainly indicated and the authors present what seems a feasible plan for slow but eventual unification with neither library completely losing its identity.

Much the same recommendations are made for school library services, consolidation under a Bureau of School Libraries with headquarters in the public library since that agency seems to have shown more interest than have the schools. Cognizance of the many problems involved is indicated by the several alternative plans suggested.

Though the various libraries in Bay City are doing the best they can under the circumstances,—in fact, the authors point out examples of unusually fine service,—the total library picture would be much more significant were the recommendations put into action rather than filed away to be drawn out for inspection when another survey is requested some years hence.

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Western Michigan College Library

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## SUBURBAN LIBRARIANS' ROUND TABLE

Head librarians of eight cities adjacent to Detroit have formed a group to discuss mutual administrative problems, especially those of a smaller library on the immediate fringe of a large metropolitan area. The libraries represented are Birmingham, Dearborn, Ferndale, Grosse Pointe, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Pontiac, Royal Oak and Wayne County.

The first meeting was held March 3, 1950, with Grosse Pointe Library acting as host. At this meeting it was decided to call the group the Suburban Librarians' Round Table, to keep the group small enough for free discussion, to have no officers, dues, or other paraphernalia of organization, and to hold meetings at six week intervals. The host librarian is to publicize, officiate, and otherwise engineer each meeting.

While there is a considerable difference in population between Birmingham and Dearborn, the two extremes, the difference in library strength is not so marked and there is a good deal of similarity in administrative problems of the nine library systems. Wayne County is a large system, but the component cities are small and their thinking is geared to much the same level as the other libraries in the group. The Detroit Public Library has participated in one meeting when inter-library relations were discussed, and has a standing invitation to meet with the group whenever any subject in which they are interested is to be discussed.

There is a healthy amount of dissention in the discussions, due largely to the small size of the group. Everyone has a chance to have his say, and those who disagree make themselves known. This seldom happens in a larger group and it is for this reason that the group has preferred to keep its membership as it now stands.

Such subjects as changes in technical processes, inter-library activities, and public relations are discussed. The November meeting will be held in Royal Oak with Mrs. Palmer leading a discussion on relations between the library and community groups. The following meeting will be held in Hamtramck to discuss streamlining of catalog processes.

The group feels that these meetings have been definitely helpful and recommends the formation of similar types of groups in other areas where heads of a few libraries of nearly equal size can get together to talk over their problems.

Stanley J. Tanner  
Hamtramck Public Library

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## REMINDER FROM MRS. WYLIE

1. Membership dues are payable the first of January.
2. Notices will be sent to all members—large libraries will get theirs in a group.
3. More than one section may be checked if desired.
4. Please fill out each card completely as it takes only a few minutes for each one, but when multiplied by 1200 it adds into too much time for the Executive Secretary which could be more profitably used by the Association in other ways.
5. If you have changed your name since last January, please give us both your maiden and married names, and so indicate for ease in keeping records straight.
6. Prompt payment keeps the Association solvent, allows more precise allotment of available money to the various activities, and again saves time by eliminating second and even third notices. If dues are not paid by March 1st the March Michigan Librarian will not be sent.

(Continued from page 14)

ministrative feasibility of dividing responsibilities between State and local communities." Further, local library support, instead of being decreased, has actually increased almost twice as fast as in a comparable control area elsewhere in the state. The supply and diversity of material available on the local level has been substantially increased. Books arrive earlier, circulation is going up, in-service training is expanding and a genuine feeling of regional library unity is developing. This feeling is best summed up by one of the local librarians who observed: "For the first time I feel I am really part of a team."

### PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Public Relations Committee of M.L.A. is again looking for a community or a group of communities that would be willing to hold a luncheon to which leaders of interested citizens groups would be invited to hear about the library picture in the state and to learn more about what libraries can do to help their communities. If the local librarians will organize the luncheon, the Public Relations Committee will take care of the program. If you are interested, please write to: William Chait,

The Public Library Inquiry's report on this area of service arrived at the following conclusion:

Our research indicates that institutionally the regional field offices of state library agencies afford great promise of accomplishing . . . political and administrative objectives. At this point the vicious circle of low salaries, inadequate operating budgets, restricted facilities for service, and a pervasive reluctance to engage effectively in the political process may most readily be broken.<sup>1</sup>

1. *The Public Library in the Political Process*, by Oliver Garceau. A report of the Public Library Inquiry. Columbia University Press: New York, 1949. p.239.

Chairman, Public Relations Committee, Kalamazoo Public Library, for further details.

The Public Relations Committee has also gathered the names of about 40 librarians who are willing to speak before local groups concerning libraries. The only expense for this service will be the cost of transportation for the speaker. The Public Relations Committee will take care of making the arrangements. You are invited to make use of this Speakers Bureau.

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